

I-70 Twin Tunnels FAQ

Why are there lane closures along eastbound I-70?

Widening eastbound I-70 on both sides of the tunnel requires tearing out the existing asphalt to install drainage lines beneath the highway lanes before the roadway is reconstructed. This extensive work requires reducing eastbound I-70 to one lane of travel through the project area.

When will these lane closures be in effect?

Eastbound I-70 will be reduced to one lane of travel starting the morning of Tuesday, Dec. 10, and continuing through Thursday, Dec. 12.

When will this project be complete?

The eastbound I-70 widening work is scheduled to be complete during the overnight hours of Thursday, Dec. 12 when three lanes of traffic will be open from the east Idaho Springs interchange to the bottom of Floyd Hill.

Why was this project done?

The Eastbound I-70 Twin Tunnels Project improves safety and mobility on eastbound I-70 by adding a third lane and widening the entrance to the eastbound tunnel bore. The project also enhances safety by flattening out the eastbound I-70 curve at Hidden Valley and adding shoulders and improved lighting inside the eastbound tunnel. The new eastbound I-70 bridge over Clear Creek also features better clearance under the bridge, improving wildlife crossing.

Are there plans to widen the westbound tunnel?

The Colorado Department of Transportation has approved proceeding with design and environmental clearance activities for the westbound Twin Tunnels board and is reviewing proposals from contractors interested in performing the work. Moving forward with widening the westbound bore, however, is contingent on CDOT finding funds to build the project and Clear Creek County and Idaho Springs agreeing to keep the existing tunnel detour in place and delaying final improvements to County Road 314.